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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DOHA 000315

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [QA](#)

SUBJECT: QATAR'S LEADING LADY SHOWS CLOUT IN OUSTER OF TWO  
FEMALE MINISTERS

Classified By: Charge' d'affaires Michael A. Ratney for reasons 1.4 (b  
and d).

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(C) KEY POINTS  
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-- On April 28, Crown Prince Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani announced the ouster of Health Minister Shaykha Dr. Ghalia bint Mohammad Al Thani and Education Minister Shaykha Al-Mahmoud. They were replaced by two men thought to be close allies of Crown Prince Tamim and, by extension, his mother, Shaykha Mozah bint Nasser Al Misnad.

-- The two new ministers will serve concurrently as Secretaries General of the Supreme Council for Health and the Supreme Council for Education, which will be the true centers of policymaking after the shakeup. Tamim will chair both Councils, and Shaykha Mozah will serve as Vice-Chair.

-- The move was seen as a victory for Shaykha Mozah, second wife of Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and mother of the Crown Prince. Education and health have long been two of her primary interests.

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(C) COMMENTS AND ANALYSIS  
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-- Although both appointments carry the rank and title of minister, their true authority derives from their role as Secretaries General of Supreme Councils ultimately controlled by Shaykha Mozah.

-- These developments are yet another round in the ongoing rivalry between Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani and the Amir's wife, Shaykha Mozah. The two ousted ministers were thought to have moved too close to the PM's camp in areas traditionally dominated by Shaykha Mozah. By ousting the two Ministers, replacing them with loyalists to her and Tamim, and moving the policymaking to the Supreme Councils, she has re-asserted her dominance in these two sectors. Observers feel that Mozah is better able to manage them through Supreme Councils dominated by her and her supporters than allowing Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani to manage them through his ministries.

-- The replacement of Shaykha Ghalia, a UK-trained physician, by an experienced administrator, suggests that the GOQ is concerned less with the overall medical quality of its healthcare system than with its effective administration. In recent weeks, callers to a popular call-in show on Qatar radio have complained increasingly about healthcare in the country, and the shakeup may be seen as an attempt to get ahead of rising public discontent before the blame is placed on the Crown Prince and Shaykha Mozah.

-- According to analysts at the RAND-Qatar Policy Institute, by asserting her authority over education policy,

Shaykha Mozah has scored a victory for her comprehensive K-12 education reform, under which government schools will slowly be replaced by or converted to high-quality independent schools not unlike charter schools in the United States.

End Key Points and Comments and Analysis.

¶1. (C) On April 28, Crown Prince Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani announced the ouster of the Minister of Education, Shaykha Al-Mahmoud, and the Minister of Health, Dr. Shaykha Ghalia bint Mohammad Al Thani. The new Minister of Education is U.S.-educated Saad bin Ibrahim Al Mahmoud, Director of Administration for the Amiri Diwan. Abdulla bin Khalid Al Qahtani, who received a Master of Science in Accounting from the American University in Washington, DC and who headed the Organizing Committee of the Asian Games in Doha in 2007, will serve as Minister of Health. Both men are viewed as loyalists to Crown Prince Tamim, and by extension, to Shaykha Mozah. The two will also serve as Secretaries General of the Supreme Council for Health and the Supreme Council for Education, through which they will report to Shaykha Mozah.

¶2. (SBU) Crown Prince Tamim also announced the new members of the Supreme Council for Health. He will Chair the Council, and Shaykha Mozah will serve as Vice-Chair. Dr. Ghalia will retain some influence over health policy, having been named as a member of the Supreme Council for Health. The Supreme Council for Health will have regulatory power over pharmacies, public and private hospitals, medical research institutions, physicians, and nursing homes.

¶3. (C) The Crown Prince also named the new members of the

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Supreme Council for Education. He and Shaykha Mozah will also head this Council. Members include Dr. Mazin bin Jassim Al Jaidah, who recently became the first Qatari to earn his Ph.D. at Harvard University, and Dr. Shaykha bint Abdulla Al Misnad, aunt of Shaykha Mozah and President of Qatar University.  
Ratney